



TOWN OF IPSWICH
25 Green Street
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

Stephen Crane
Town Manager

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the Select Board
FROM: Stephen Crane, Town Manager
Mary Gallivan, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: December 19, 2022
RE: Town Manager Report

Holiday Hours for ELD

- Thursday, 12/22, 8am-12pm
- Friday, 12/23, CLOSED
- Monday, 12/26, CLOSED
- Tuesday, 12/27, 8am-7pm

Representative in the General Court Recount Q&A

Town Clerk Amy Akell has received a number of questions about the recount and has prepared a list of most asked questions and answers.

- *Who participates and where?*
The candidates, their Counsel, and their agents, as well as election workers to count the ballots. The Board of Registrars also are present. The time and place is determined by the Board of Registrars.
- *Why would ballots be accepted the first round then rejected a second round?*
Ballots are examined when they are counted during the recount, and either candidate or their agents can “object” to whom the ballot was counted for. The Board of Registrars then determine who the ballot is counted for. If the ballot is still objected to, it is held aside in an envelope with other protested ballots from that precinct.
- *Does each candidate or their representative get to see rejected ballots and agree or disagree?*
Yes. They may not touch the ballots, but they are able to view all the ballots, as well as the other election materials.
- *Are voters notified if/when their ballots are rejected?*
Yes, we notify voters if a ballot is rejected and give them the opportunity to cast a new ballot. However, in the case of failed delivery, or if we are too close to the election date, we can't.
- *Does far greater use of ballots affect reliability of the count?*
It can.
- *How does a candidate “pick up” additional votes.*
Often the machine may have counted a ballot as blank but, when human eyes view it, the voter's intent is clear.
- *Should I vote determine election results?*

That is what MA law says!

- *Would a third count be the final conclusion, or could there be a fourth count?*
No. Once a recount is done, if a candidate disputes the results, they have the option to go to court.
- *Could this end up being decided in a court?*
Yes.
- *Could a court send this back for a whole new vote?*
They could.
- *Why would an absentee/early ballot be rejected?*
 - No signature on the inner envelope
 - Missing Inner Envelope
 - Failed Delivery
 - If they already voted (this happens when a ballot is mailed, but they haven't received it, so they decide to vote in person, or they mailed it, but we haven't gotten it, so they vote in person)
 - Received late
 - Ballot is missing from envelope
- *What happens next?*
The Town is waiting to hear from the campaigns. The results can be appealed to Superior Court.

Electric Light Department

Attached is a memo to the Select Board/Light Commissioners describing what “general supervision” means in the Town Code for the context of the Town Manager’s role in the Electric Light Department. Past efforts to codify the meaning of those words did not yield clear answers so the attached memo is an agreement on the working relationship between the Town Manager and Electric Manager for specific operational areas at ELD.

Planning Board

On December 8 the Planning Board granted a special permit for the redevelopment of 5-11 Washington Street (car wash and auto detailing uses currently) into 13 condominiums, two of which will be affordable. Project details are available on the Planning Department’s [Current Projects page](#). At this time the special permit is in the requisite 20-day appeal period. The Planning Department does not know at this time when the developer will break ground on the project but anticipates that construction will commence during 2023.

County Bridge Update

The Ipswich Department of Public Works (Department) is currently engaged in design mitigation activities for the County Street bridge. The double masonry arch bridge was recently confirmed to have structural deficiencies that need to be addressed. MassDOT recently required the Town remove loading from the western side of the bridge making County Street, between Elm Street and Green Street, a one-way in the northern direction. In response, the Department has contracted with Tetra Tech, and its subcontractors, to perform data collection and initial design mitigation activities that will ultimately address the structural deficiencies.

For this work, subsurface geotechnical investigations (borings) are necessary to characterize soil and subsurface conditions to inform the bridge mitigation preliminary design. Tetra Tech has subcontracted New England Boring to perform approximately six (6) subsurface borings in and around the bridge (see attached). As County Street at the bridge is currently a one-way street, it is necessary to detour traffic

completely through this section while the subsurface investigations are being performed. The subsurface investigations are anticipated to take 5 to 6 business days to complete. Work hours are from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Upon completion of the work each day, County Street will be re-opened to one-way traveling north through this stretch.

The town’s patience while this work is occurring is greatly appreciated.

Fire Department

The department was awarded a grant through the Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$19,000 that will be used to purchase safety equipment including ballistic gear for active shooter incidents, personal protective equipment for forestry incidents, and water rescue equipment.

Recently members of the department participated in Rapid Intervention Training as part of a multi-jurisdictional exercise in Rowley. Departments included Ipswich, Rowley, and Newbury. Members were tasked with rescuing a downed firefighter from an acquired structure, as well as performing outside forcible entry access points using tools and ladders, as well as acting within the incident command post. See pictures below.

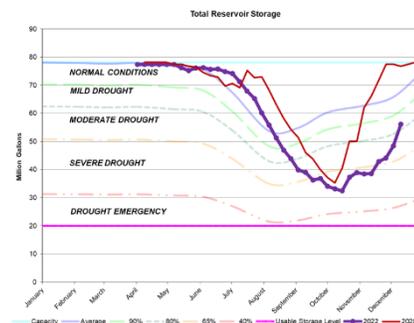


ReCreation and Culture

The WinterBall @ TownHall will be at 7:30PM on Friday, December 30 and feature the song stylings of The Marsh Hoppers and Tom Palance’s little Big Band. The Town has also received a MIIA Risk Mitigation Grant to install a guard rail on the Take Out Terrace stage and to purchase a rearview camera for IR&C Bus. The department continues to work with New England BiioLabs Foundation on the improvements to the ArtScape @ TheSwitch, Bialek Park.

Water Department

All drought restrictions have been lifted. Reservoir storage is approximately 72% of capacity and groundwater sources have recharged.



Information Technology

The department added a firewall so the Town now has two firewalls for redundancy and failover.

Boards, Committees and Commissions

I attended the Finance Committee meeting for an introduction as well as a brief discussion about the vacant Finance Director position, which is being filled part-time, and the budget process. I continue to attend the Public Safety Building Working Group and Committee meetings to discuss ways to ensure the project remains on budget. I also attended the Ipswich branch of the Greater Cape Ann Chamber holiday event, had a brief introductory meeting with the Director of the Ipswich Partnership, and dropped in to the IRWA dam event at Town Hall.